

Letter from William Thomson (1st Baron Kelvin) to Mabel Hubbard Bell, April 20, 1893, with transcript

Copy of a letter from LORD KELVIN to Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell. Important in showing that Dr. Bell was deeply interested in flying machines long prior to April 20, 1893. THE UNIVERSITY GLASGOW. April 20, 1893. Dear Mrs. Graham Bell,

I owe you many apologies for not having long ago written in reply to your letter of 29th September, which reached me in Philadelphia a few days before our departure for England. I was quite sure that your husband would not go on in respect to flying-machines otherwise than by careful and trustworthy experiment. Even if the result is to demonstrate to himself that a practical useful solution of the problem is not to be found, I am sure what he finds by his observations and measurements will be very interesting, and I was much interested in all you told me in your letter regarding his experiments. When I spoke to him on the subject at Halifax I wished to dissuade him from giving his valuable time and resources to attempts which I believe, and still believe, could only lead to disappointment, if carried on with any expectation of leading to a useful flying machine.

Lady Kelvin sends her love to you and with my kind regards to your husband, I remain

Yours very truly KELVIN